

WE CLAIM:

1. A communications system, comprising:
 - a) a plurality of communications units fixedly mounted onboard an airplane, each of said communications units being adapted to be operated by an associated passenger to perform digital image viewing functions, whereby each of said communications units comprises at least one receiver adapted to receive image data from a digital camera and display said image data on a video screen; and
 - b) at least one processor operatively connected to said at least one receiver and said video screen.
2. The communications system of claim 1 wherein a first plurality of said plurality of communications units are fixedly mounted within seatbacks on said airplane.
3. The communications system of claim 1, each of said communications units further comprising control apparatus operatively connected to said at least one processor and said video screen which is adapted to control said image data on said video screen.
4. The communications system of claim 1, each of said communications units further comprising a video monitor, said video monitor comprising said video screen.

5. The communications system of claim 1 wherein said at least one receiver is a digital camera memory card reader adapted to receive a memory card from a digital camera.

6. The communications system of claim 1 wherein said at least one receiver is an infrared receiver adapted to communicate with an infrared transmitter on a digital camera.

7. The communications system of claim 1 wherein said at least one receiver is a radio signal receiver adapted to communicate with a radio signal transmitter on a digital camera.

8. The communications system of claim 1 further comprising at least one remote connection device adapted to connect each of said communications units to a remote location.

9. The communications system of claim 8 further comprising a central processing unit operatively connected to said plurality of communications units, wherein said at least one processor and said at least one remote connection device are located within said central processing unit.

10. The communications system of claim 8 wherein said at least one processor and said at least one remote connection device are located within each of said communications units.

11. The communications system of claim 8 wherein said at least one remote connection device is adapted to connect each of said communications units to the Internet.

12. A communications system, comprising:

a) a plurality of communications units fixedly mounted onboard an airplane, each of said communications units being adapted to be operated by an associated passenger to perform scanning functions, whereby each of said communications units comprises a scanner adapted to scan a document and display a scanned image of said document on a video screen;

b) at least one processor operatively connected to said scanner and said video screen; and

c) at least one remote connection device adapted to connect each of said communications units to a remote location.

13. The communications system of claim 12 wherein a first plurality of said plurality of communications units are fixedly mounted within seatbacks on said airplane.

14. The communications system of claim 12, each of said communications units further comprising apparatus operatively connected to said at least one processor and said video screen which is adapted to control said scanned image on said video screen.

15. The communications system of claim 12, each of said communications units further comprising a video monitor, said video monitor comprising said video screen.

16. The communications system of claim 12, each of said communications units further comprising a PC connection device adapted to connect said scanner to a passenger's personal computer comprising said video screen.

17. The communications system of claim 12, said scanner comprising:

- a) at least one port adapted to receive and eject a document;
- b) a driving mechanism positioned adjacent to said port which is adapted to drive a document into and out of said port; and
- c) a scanning module operatively connected to said at least one processor.

18. The communications system of claim 12 further comprising a central processing unit operatively connected to said plurality of communications units, wherein said at least one processor and said at least one remote connection device are located within said central processing unit.

19. The communications system of claim 12 wherein said at least one processor and said at least one remote connection device are located within each of said communications units.

20. The communications system of claim 12 wherein said remote connection device is adapted to connect each of said communications units to the Internet.

21. A communications system, comprising:

a) a plurality of communications units fixedly mounted onboard an airplane, each of said communications units being adapted to be operated by an associated passenger to perform digital image viewing and scanning functions, whereby each of said communications units comprises:

i) at least one receiver adapted to receive image data from a digital camera and display said image data on a video screen; and

ii) a scanner adapted to scan a document and display a scanned image of said document on a video screen;

b) at least one processor operatively connected to said at least one receiver, said scanner, and said video screen; and

c) at least one remote connection device adapted to connect said communications units to a remote location.

22. A communications system, comprising:

a) a plurality of communications units fixedly mounted onboard an airplane, each of said communications units comprising:

i) at least one receiver adapted to receive image data from a digital camera and display said image data on a video screen; and

- ii) a scanner adapted to scan a document and display a scanned image of said document on a video screen; and
- 25 b) at least one processor operatively connected to said at least one receiver and said video screen.

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